

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2900

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RO, XF
SUBJECT: ROMANIAN ACTIVITIES ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION

1. SUMMARY: ROMANIAN PERMREP ADVISED AMB LEONARD OF HIS CONTACTS (EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN, PLO REPS) ON A NEW SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON MIDDLE EAST WHICH WOULD REAFFIRM 242 AND 338 AND ADD PALESTINIAN ELEMENT. DATCU COMMENTS THAT RADICALS WITHIN ARAB GROUP (AND SOVIETS) ARE WATCHING FOR ARAB PATIENCE TO BE EXHAUSTED IN ORDER TO TRY TO DESTROY POSITIONS CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN BUILDING. END SUMMARY

2. ROMANIAN PERM REP DATCU APPROACH AMBASSADOR LEONARD SEPTEMBER 6TH TO ADVISE HIM OF SERIES OF "VERY INFORMAL PERSONAL" CONTACTS ON THE SUBJECT OF A POSSIBLE NEW SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST. DATCU SAYS HE HAS BEEN TALKING WITH EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN, AND PLO REPS BUT IS NOT SPEAKING FOR ANY OF THEM OR FOR HIS OWN GOVERNMENT.

3. CORE OF DATCU'S IDEA IS FAMILIAR ONE OF A NEW SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING, AND IN NO WAY MODIFYING, 242 AND 338, BUT ADDING "MISSING PALESTINIAN ELEMENT." DATCU IS WELL AWARE THIS IDEA IS GENERALLY IN THE AIR BUT HAS BEEN TRYING TO ASCERTAIN IF ARAB SIDE WOULD CONSIDER SOME VERY MODEST VERSION WHICH U.S. MIGHT BE
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WILLING TO SUPPORT. HE SAYS THAT ARAB WISHES WOULD, OF COURSE, MAKE "CHRISTMAS TREE" OUT OF ANY RESOLUTION BUT HE THINKS THAT SOMETHING WHOSE ONLY OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH WOULD SPEAK OF "ENABLING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO EXERCISE THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHTS" MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARAB SIDE. HE SUGGESTED THAT ISRAELIS SHOULD PLEASE TO GAIN SOLID ARAB ENDORSEMENT OF 242. (OBVIOUSLY

HE HAS LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF ISRAELI ATTITUDES TOWARD
242.)

4. IN RESPOSE TO DATCU'S INVITATION, LEONARD OFFERED
HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT ISRAELI REACTION TO ANY SUCH
RESOLUTION WOULD BE EXTREMELY VIOLENT, PREJUDICING
MOVEMENT TOWARD A GENEVA CONFERENCE. AT DATCU'S INSISTENCE,
HE AGREED TO REPORT CONCEPT TO WASHINGTON.

5. DATCU ARGUES THAT MOOD AMONG ARABS TOWARD U.S.,
ALTHOUGH NOT BAD AT PRESENT, WILL DETERIORATE SHARPLY IF
U.S. IS UNABLE TO "DO ANYTHING FOR THEM IN COMING MONTHS.
HE SAID THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT ARABS WILL MAKE USUAL
FUSS IN GA AND NO REASON TO BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT
THAT, BUT HE FEARS THEIR EFFORTS WILL NOT BE CONFINED TO
THAT FORUM. HE COMMENTED THAT RADICALS WITHIN ARAB GROUP,
AND OF COURSE SOVIETS, ARE WATCHING FOR ARAB PATIENCE TO
BE EXHAUSTED IN ORDER TO MOVE TO DESTROY POSITIONS OF IN-
FLUENCE WHICH U.S. HAS BEEN DEVELOPING UNDER CARTER
ADMINISTRATION.

6. DATCU THINKS THAT WITH EVEN MINIMAL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM
THE U.S. A DAMAGING DEBATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE
REPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CAN BE DEFERRED
UNTIL MID-OCTOBER, AFTER CURRENT ROUND OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
MEETINGS. THIS WOULD GIVE U.S. TIME TO DEVELOP FORMULAS FOR
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INTRODUCING MOVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT DATCU IS OPERATING ON
INSTRUCTIONS FROM BUCHAREST. HIS SENSITIVITY AND REPEATED
DISCLAIMERS RELATE TO SOVIETS, TOWARD WHOM HE IS RATHER
HOSTILE AND WHO WOULD CERTAINLY NOT APPROVE OF HIS EFFORTS
TO FIND WAYS TO BOLSTER U.S. POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE IN
MIDDLE EAST. HE MUST BE PROTECTED AGAINST REPORTS OF HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH US GETTING BACK EVEN TO OTHER ROMANIAN
DIPLOMATS, SOME OF WHOM ARE CLOSE TO SOVIETSS.

8. ON SUBSTNACE OF HIS SUGGESTIONS, WE SEE NO IMMEDIATE
NEED FOR FURTHER RESPONSE UNLESS DEPARTMENT WISHES, BUT
WE DO SUGGEST NEED FOR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND GUIDANCE
ON HOW TO HANDLE GENERAL IDEA WHICH HAS BEEN BOBBING TO
SURFACE WITH VARIOUS FORMULATIONS AND SPONSORS BOTH HERE
AND ABROAD EVEN SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER'S CLINTON STATEMENT.
PERIOD FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO GA OCTOBER 4
IS LIKELY TO BE CRITICAL MOMENT, IF WE ARE NOT THEN
CLEARLY ENROUTE TO GENEVA.

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